

A Sustainable Solution

Canadian wood has become a sustainable option to fulfil critical need gaps in the Indian market.

BY ALYSSA LOBO

India has always had a vibrant history of wood craftsmanship – both in wood products and structural parts. Wood has found a special place in furniture, floorings, ceiling panels, intricate carvings to decorate walls, pillars, statues, etc. It still continues to be a popular and aspirational choice.



Peter Bradfield,
Technical Advisor, FII India

In fact, the demand for solid wood has grown exponentially, leading India to import more than 7.5 million cubic meters a year to meet the rising demand. The domestic market for wood and panel based furniture is expanding at more than 30% annually, the growing interest and demand has bolstered import from several countries across the globe like Malaysia, New Zealand, Myanmar, USA, among others.

Also due to India's expansive requirement and depleting forest cover, the government has endorsed the need to protect its forest reserves and encouraged imports from sustainable suppliers. Only 10% of the world's forests are certified and Canada holds 40% of the world's forest certification, with British Columbia being the provincial leader.

Canadian wood, harvested from sustainable sources has become a credible option to fulfil critical need gaps in the Indian market. The wood is certified, assures quality and adopts

proper manufacturing practices apart from being one of the best in the world.

"British Columbia species stand out due to their visual impact, grain, workability, superior strength to weight ratio, lower density and ease of handling. Individual species are recommended according to the need for natural durability, strength, nail and screw holding, glue adhesion, aesthetics, a smooth finish and ability to take stain or polish," says Peter Bradfield, Technical Advisor, Forestry Innovation Investment (FII) India.

Wood products procured from sustainably managed forests help combat climate change, as more trees are planted in place of those cut down. The government of British Columbia allows less than one per cent of the forest to be harvested each year.

British Columbia's forestlands are unique among worldwide producers in that 95% are publicly owned and subject to strict forest-management laws, backed by a comprehensive compliance and enforcement process that involves various provincial and federal agencies. British Columbia's Forest and Range Practices Act maintains the province's high level of environmental protection, and applies to any forest or range activities on public land. Canada's forest management standards are internationally recognised and are certified under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or Program for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) systems managed by independent organisations.

Another plus is its positive carbon footprint, even post import,

from British Columbia to India. Trees and the wood products that come from them store carbon dioxide from the air in their cells. By taking carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere, trees can help reduce climate change impacts known as 'global warming'.

An independent study into the impact of shipping products from British Columbia to India concluded that the carbon dioxide stored in wood products far outweighs the extra carbon dioxide generated by manufacturing and shipping wood products to be used in India.

companies demonstrate a commitment to conserve the environment when importing wood products or lumber.

Given the features of Canadian wood, the solid wood species can be extensively used in creating furniture, doors and windows for both indoor and outdoor furniture. It has a proven record of resistance to insects, termites and pests. It can easily be used for numerous applications such as decorative panelling, mouldings, cabinet work. Wood species promoted by FII are Douglas Fir, Western Hemlock, Western Red Cedar and Spruce-Pine-Fir (SPF).



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About 2.3 times more carbon dioxide is taken out of the atmosphere and stored in wood products shipped from British Columbia to India than the carbon dioxide generated through the production and transportation of the products. This is a very positive environmental impact, which is even better if you consider the carbon dioxide also stored in the wood that will not need to be harvested within India or in unsustainable tropical forests.

The need to preserve tropical forests is a major concern to environmentalists and governments. While Indian customers look at wood for their various requirements, they are also conscious of the need to preserve tropical forests. Customers are also concerned that sourcing imported tropical hardwood logs may be harming the environment as unsustainable logging is known to take place in some regions. Hence they are increasingly demanding that

All products currently produced from traditional hardwoods in India can be produced from Canadian wood. "SPF is being used successfully in the manufacture of timber cabins in resort areas and farms in India, and is ideal for flush door-frames as this species is consistently straight and stable, glues well and exhibits strong fastener holding. Douglas Fir is being used in two impressive developments in Northern India, both in a structural application as a large section post and beam and an appearance application as exterior cladding," says Bradfield.

British Columbia species are versatile, cost effective, often cheaper than traditional hardwoods and will benefit India by augmenting the growing supply shortages in Teak and other Asian species.

Contact

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